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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/714,349	11/15/2003	Roger F. Sutcliffe	MM113003	3333
7590	07/28/2005		EXAMINER	
DAVID S. WORONOFF 121 E. Mountain Ave. FORT COLLINS, CO 80524			LEON, EDWIN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/714,349	SUTCLIFFE, ROGER F.
	Examiner Edwin A. León	Art Unit 2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/11/04

2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 11/15/03 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/15/03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy (U.S. Patent No. 6,325,280) in view of Dickie (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0106909). With regard to Claims 1-2 and 5, Murphy (Figs. 1-3) discloses an apparatus (10) for interconnecting electrical parts on least one circuit board (20) having a pattern of electrically conductive elements (22) thereon comprising in combination: at least one socket means (60) having a particular array electrically conductive through passages (64) formed thereon which pattern mates with the pattern on a circuit board; the socket means having connected to it a socket sleeve member (50) which has conductive passageway (inner surface of 50) through the socket sleeve member having contact member (51) therein for receiving an interconnecting pin member (34) which through the sleeve member and engages the contact member placed within the sleeve.

However, Murphy doesn't show a relatively soft barrier means formed at one end of the sleeve member adapted to be easily removed by the insertion of the interconnecting pin member, the soft barrier means being formed of kraft paper, the

cylindrical sleeve member being formed on one end thereof to trap and retain in possession the barrier means until an interconnecting pin member is placed therein to dislodge the barrier means.

Dickie discloses a connector having a relatively soft barrier means formed at one end adapted to be easily removed, the soft barrier means being formed of kraft paper.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Murphy by including a relatively soft barrier means formed at one end adapted to be easily removed, the soft barrier means being formed of kraft paper as taught in Dickie in order to prevent the apparatus from being contaminated.

With regard to Claim 3, Murphy (Figs. 1-3) discloses the near end of the sleeve member being formed into a sharp edge (part of 50 that protrudes from 62, Fig. 3) member.

With regard to Claim 4, Murphy (Figs. 1-3) discloses the sleeve member having an outer surface (outer surface of the part of 50 that protrudes from 62, Fig. 3), which is tapered inward towards its center to form a sharp edge (part of 50 that protrudes from 62, Fig. 3) with the inner cylindrical surface.

### ***Conclusion***

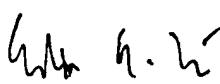
3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lambert (U.S. Patent No. 4,797,113), Currie (U.S. Patent No.

5,290,970), Recktenwald et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,644,983) and Niles et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,390,221) disclose apparatuses for connecting boards having socket means and sleeve members.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Edwin A. Leon  
AU 2833

EAL  
July 22, 2005

  
TRUCT. NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER